

Hamilton Field, Gymnasium and Bowling Alley
(Facility No. 115)
San Pablo Avenue southwest of Escolta Avenue
intersection
Novato
Marin County
California

HABS No. CA-2398-CK

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HAMILTON FIELD
Gymnasium and Bowling Alley
(Facility No. 115)

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Location: Hamilton Army Air Field
Novato, Marin County, California
Gymnasium and Bowling Alley
Facility No. 115 (San Pablo Avenue southwest of Escolta Avenue intersection)

U.S.G.S.: Novato, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1954 (revised 1980)
Petaluma Point, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1959 (revised 1980)
UTM Coordinates: Zone 10; A: 542100/4213620; B: 544720/421220;
C: 542760/4210650; D: 541040/4212600

Significance:

The gymnasium was the central recreation facility for the temporary quarters adjacent to the main base buildings. In conjunction with the airmen's swimming pool and tennis courts nearby, it provided the enlisted men and women with an opportunity for a complete physical exercise and recreational program during their stay at Hamilton.

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) for a comprehensive Statement of Significance and individual report HABS No. CA-2398-A for a condensed Statement of Significance.

Description:

The gymnasium is wood frame, one and one-half stories high, with a rectilinear mass. It has a low-pitched gable truss roof. Walls are frame covered with modern exterior rough plywood siding. The foundation is continuous wall with a concrete subfloor. The three primary entrances are located on the northwest front facade and are accessed via concrete ramps with pipe railings. Exterior doors to the gymnasium are metal with double glass lights; exterior locksets are of the thumbatch type, while metal panic bars provide egress from the interior. Windows in the upper side elevation of the gymnasium are multi-light metal industrial sash with wire mesh security glass. There are six windows along the upper elevations of the front and rear of the building. A shed-roofed extension, with 12 metal industrial type sash windows beneath the roofline, is located along the north front elevation.

There are four showers in the gymnasium latrine, as well as three toilet stalls, two wall-mounted hand sinks, a cast iron mop sink, and a steam bath. Flooring is one-inch ceramic tile, with walls covered with four-inch-square white ceramic tile. Six-inch-square quarry tile covers

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the walls of the steam room, which has a metal glass and panel door. The sauna has wood walls, ceiling, and floor.

The gymnasium has an oak floor, with bleachers on each side. Basketball hoops and electric scoreboards are located on each end wall. The lower six feet of the exterior walls are concrete, with the upper portions of plywood and composition board. Other rooms in the gymnasium consist of a women's locker room, weight room, and office and storage room. The weight room has two sheetrock walls and two glass walls. Heating for the building is provided by steam boiler, and ductwork is exposed. Lighting fixtures are suspended metal barn type, with protective cages.

The bowling alley, originally six lanes but enlarged to 10 lanes in 1975, has an oak floor, wooden truss ceiling, and gypsum wallboard. It is attached to the southwest end of the gymnasium and is accessed via modern double glass and metal doors. The subfloor and perimeter foundation are concrete. The snack bar, lounge area, and pro shop have carpeted floors, acoustical tile ceilings, and composition wallboard. A modern latrine, consisting of three toilets, four urinals, and two sinks, was added near the front entrance in recent years. The original latrine has two toilet stalls and two sinks; both have asphalt tile flooring. The alley has an automatic pin spotting machine. A small mechanical equipment room is in the northeast corner of the alley.

Historical Context:

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

This facility was originally built for enlisted men as part of a health complex that included the nearby swimming pool, tennis courts, obstacle course, and athletic fields. The facility was transferred to the Navy in 1974 and is still in use today.

Sources:

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section 8 in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

See the project Field Record, roll 94, exposures 3-12; roll 95, exposures 1-10; roll 99, exposures 7-12; and roll 100, exposures 1-6.

The line drawn sketches were drafted on site in 1994 by Keith Syda, scanned into a computer and drawn by Christopher MacDonald in 1995, and corrected and finalized by Claire Warshaw in 1996 (all PAR Environmental Services, Inc. staff).

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Project Information:

Hamilton Army Air Field is owned by various federal entities including the Department of the Navy, Department of the Army, United States Coast Guard, and General Services Administration (GSA). The Army/GSA parcels are being excessed and sold to private developers. The Navy property is included in Base Closure and Realignment actions.

As part of the Army's undertaking, it has been determined in consultation with the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) that the excess sale will have an affect on properties at the air field, and that these properties are components of a district that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Based on consultation with the OHP and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, pursuant to 36 CFR part 800, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was entered into by the interested parties in March 1994. The agreement stipulated that prior to excess sale the Army must contact the HABS/HAER division at the Western Regional Office of the National Park Service, San Francisco, California, to determine the appropriate level and kind of recordation for the subject properties. The MOA further stipulated that copies of the documentation be made available to the OHP and appropriate local archives designated by the OHP. This recordation has been prepared in order to meet those stipulations.

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Date prepared: July 1995

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